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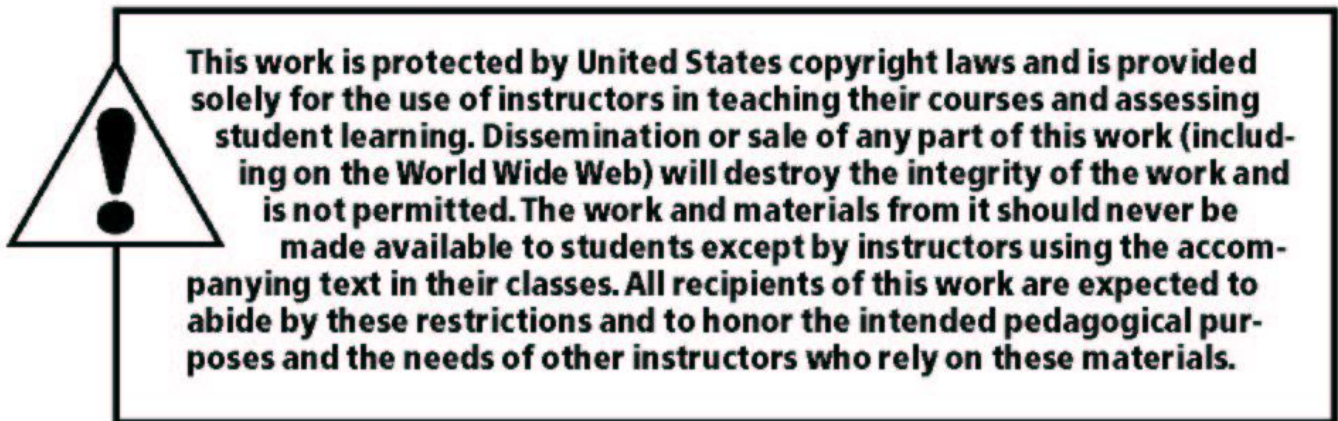
**Educational Research: Planning,  
Conducting, and Evaluating Quantitative  
and Qualitative Research  
Fifth Edition**

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## Chapter 1. The Process of Conducting Research Using Quantitative and Qualitative Approaches

For each question below, circle the correct or best answer.

1. Which one of the reasons below is the best argument for why research is important?
  - a. It is the primary work of faculty members in universities.
  - b. It informs policy makers about important issues.
  - c. It is useful in developing your research skills.
  - d. It helps the researcher prove their ideas.
2. To apply research in your practical educational setting, you might
  - a. examine what other practitioners are doing in their settings.
  - b. find out what research has to say by examining research studies.
  - c. look to research methods professors in your courses.
  - d. go to the educational library and begin to locate topics.
3. While studying educational research, you are likely to develop the following skills except
  - a. the ability to negotiate topics with faculty.
  - b. the ability to organize large amounts of information.
  - c. the ability to write for an audience.
  - d. the ability to effectively use library resources.
4. Which of the following is the best example of a research problem?
  - a. The need to conduct additional research on children
  - b. The need to address problems of teenage pregnancies
  - c. The need to learn about how classrooms work
  - d. The need to address problems in schools
5. A stakeholder with an interest in your study asks you to highlight the positive results and leave out the negative results. What type of ethical issue have you breached if you follow the request?
  - a. The right to privacy
  - b. The need to actively look for ways to “give back”
  - c. The right to avoid from personal disclosure
  - d. The honest reporting of research
6. Which one of the following organizations has set standards for the ethical practice of educational research?

- a. American Ethics Union
- b. American Educational Research Association
- c. American Principles of Ethical Practices
- d. American Ethical Research Association

7. Place in order from 1 to 6 the steps in the process of research:

- a.
- \_\_\_\_\_ reviewing the literature
  - \_\_\_\_\_ specifying a purpose
  - \_\_\_\_\_ analyzing and interpreting data
  - \_\_\_\_\_ reporting and evaluating research
  - \_\_\_\_\_ collecting data
  - \_\_\_\_\_ identifying a research problem

8. Identify three skills that you bring to research from your life experiences.

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9. List three potential shortcomings of educational research today.

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10. Describe three ways in which a research study might contribute to knowledge about an educational topic.

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11. A researcher decides to study an elementary-school classroom. This investigator wants to surprise the teacher and the students and comes in to the class unannounced during a spelling test. Describe the type of ethical issue that arises in this situation.

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12. How are quantitative and qualitative research similar?
- b. Both follow the steps in the research process
  - c. Both use similar formats for presenting the research problem
  - d. Both use data collection procedures
  - d. Quantitative and qualitative research are similar in all of these ways
13. In which way are quantitative and qualitative research similar in the use of the literature?
- a. The development of the research questions
  - b. The writing of the literature review section
  - c. The justification of the research problem
  - d. The suggestion of the study purpose
14. Which of the following sequences best characterizes research?
- a. Posing a problem, collecting data, and addressing the problem
  - b. Posing a question, collecting data, and answering the question
  - c. Posing a question, collecting data, and presenting a solution
  - d. Posing a hypothesis, collecting data, and falsifying the hypothesis
15. You are examining a published journal article to determine if it is more of a quantitative or qualitative study. All of the following characteristics would help you identify that it is a quantitative study except
- a. the inclusion of specific research questions.
  - b. the use of numeric or numbered data.
  - c. the sample of a large number of individuals.
  - d. the interpretation of the larger meaning.
16. Which of the following designs are associated with qualitative research?
- a. Survey designs
  - b. Correlational designs
  - c. Grounded theory designs
  - d. Experimental designs
17. Which of the following is the best reason for selecting either a quantitative or qualitative approach to your study?
- a. You are more comfortable with words than numbers.
  - b. Your research problem addresses characteristics of one of the approaches.

- c. You already have a survey to use.
  - d. Your literature review suggests one of the approaches.
18. What characteristic of quantitative research is evident in the parent involvement study by Deslandes and Bertrand (2005)?
- a. The researchers do not refer to themselves.
  - b. The problem of parent involvement in education is an issue today
  - c. The implications suggest a different way of considering parent involvement.
  - d. The authors had first-hand experiences with parenting children
19. What characteristic of qualitative research is evident in the mothers' trust in school principals study (Shelden et al., 2010)?
- a. The researchers focused on quality issues in the schools.
  - b. The research questions are broad, open-ended questions.
  - c. The researchers report numbers related to IEP meetings.
  - d. The authors remain invisible throughout the study.
20. Look at the title to the mothers' trust in school principals study (Shelden et al., 2010), "School Principals' Influence on Trust: Perspectives of Mothers of Children with Disabilities." What qualitative characteristic does this title suggest to a reader?
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
21. Examine the title of the parent involvement study by Deslandes and Bertrand (2005), "Motivation of parent involvement in secondary-level schooling." What quantitative characteristic does this title suggest to a reader?
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
22. Identify the type of research design that a researcher might use to examine the impact of a new lesson plan on student achievement of elementary 4th grade children.
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
23. What type of research problem is best studied using a quantitative approach?
- \_\_\_\_\_

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24. What type of research problem is best studied using a qualitative approach?

\_\_\_\_\_

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25. As you compare quantitative and qualitative research studies, what three differences are often the easy to identify when you are reading an article?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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26. A research study contains in-depth interviews with participants based on a set of questions designed by the researchers. From the data, the authors specify a number of themes and then follow up with a brief survey to elicit attitudes. Is this study mostly quantitative or qualitative?

\_\_\_\_\_

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27. What two research designs combine characteristics from both quantitative and qualitative research?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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28. For each of the following statements, indicate whether it is a characteristic more applicable to quantitative or qualitative research or both. Place an “X” in the appropriate column.

QUANTITATIVE	QUALITATIVE
--------------	-------------



- |  |       |       |
|--|-------|-------|
| a. Use of predetermined instruments              | _____ | _____ |
| b. Standard and fixed writing structure          | _____ | _____ |
| c. Biased reporting                              | _____ | _____ |
| d. Questions to elicit participants' experiences | _____ | _____ |
| e. Analysis by themes                            | _____ | _____ |
| f. Major role of the literature                  | _____ | _____ |
| g. Small number of individuals studied           | _____ | _____ |
| h. Comparison of results with predictions        | _____ | _____ |
| i. Justification of the research problem         | _____ | _____ |
- 

29. At which step in the research process should researchers consider potential ethical issues?

- a. In specifying a problem to study
- b. Throughout the research study
- c. In data collection and data analysis
- e. In the interpretation of the data

30. In compiling a research report for audiences, the researcher should:

- a. Report only findings that will not contradict the audience's predictions
- b. Report when participants have misused data
- c. Report the practical use of the study results
- d. Report the favorable and deemphasize unfavorable results

## Chapter 2. Identifying a Research Problem

For each question below, circle the correct or best answer.

1. A research problem is
  - a. a problem that needs to be researched.
  - b. an issue or concern in education.
  - c. an important passage that begins a study.
  - d. the question being addressed in a study.
2. As you examine a published research report, you will find the research problem located
  - a. in the problem section of a study.
  - b. introduced throughout a study.
  - c. in the introduction to the study.
  - d. in the first sentence to a study.
3. A researcher seeks to study the factors that contribute to “binge” drinking on college campuses. Which of the following would be the best “problem” statement for this study?
  - a. The purpose of the study is to examine the factors that contribute to binge drinking on one Midwestern university campus.
  - b. What are the factors that contribute to binge drinking on a Midwestern college campus?
  - c. Binge drinking occurs on many college campuses, and it is a popular pastime at many social events.
  - d. When students binge drink at fraternity parties, they often humiliate and demean women attending the parties.
4. Which one of the following factors would make a research problem un-researchable?
  - a. You do not know the literature about the problem.
  - b. You cannot obtain access to a population of study.
  - c. You cannot conduct statistical tests.
  - d. You cannot add to practice through your study.

5. A researcher seeks to explore how elementary students experience being assessed in math at the 4<sup>th</sup> grade level. Prior theories provide little guidance about what the researcher would expect to find. Students have shown some anxiety during testing. This research problem is best studied using a
  - a. qualitative approach.
  - b. quantitative approach.
  - c. assessment approach.
  - d. evaluation approach.
6. A researcher introduces the central idea in the title and the opening paragraph of a published study. This idea is called
  - a. the central idea.
  - b. the central phenomenon.
  - c. the key variable.
  - d. the educational topic.
7. Indicate the purpose of using a narrative hook in the introduction to a study.
  - a. It provides the reader with your research question.
  - b. It introduces your research design to the reader.
  - c. It encourages the reader to continue to read on.
  - d. It promotes the importance of the first sentence.
8. In order to justify the importance of a research problem in a statement of the problem section of a study, the researcher might use all of the following sources except?
  - a. Draw on personal experiences
  - b. Rely on the advice of experts
  - c. Use results to develop an incomplete theory
  - d. Talk with colleagues in the workplace
9. Which of the following are the best writing strategies for the statement of problem section?
  - a. Use a quote to begin the study.
  - b. Begin the section with your research questions.
  - c. Use frequent literature references throughout the section.
  - d. Begin with a specific topic and then move to the general.

10. Why would a researcher mention the audience in a “statement of the problem” section of a study?
- a. Because members of the audience need to use the study
  - b. Because members of the audience will vote to publish the study
  - c. Because members of the audience will want to use the study
  - d. Because members of the audience need to see the study’s relevance
11. What characterizes the best stance on using quotes from the literature in the “statement of the problem” section of a research study?
- a. Long quotes should not be used.
  - b. Quotes should be used sparingly.
  - c. Find quotes for statistical trends.
  - d. Short quotes should be used.

- 
12. Below are the five components typically found in a “statement of the problem” section of a research study. Order the components as they are found by placing a number in the space before the component.

\_\_\_\_\_ justification of the problem  
\_\_\_\_\_ audience  
\_\_\_\_\_ the research problem  
\_\_\_\_\_ the topic  
\_\_\_\_\_ deficiencies of past research or practical knowledge

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13. Below you will find a narrative hook presented by a researcher in a study. Unfortunately, it is not a good narrative hook. Rewrite it to be a better hook, keeping in mind the purpose of a good hook.

Poor model: AIDS education needs to be included within the schools curriculum at the junior high and high schools levels.

Good model: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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14. Assume that you would like to study the research problem of whether students with special needs should be included in the regular classroom. What factors would you consider in determining whether this problem is researchable? List three factors.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

- 
15. Look at paragraph 4 of the mothers' trust in school principals study (Shelden et al., 2010). On what basis do the authors justify the need to study the research problem?

\_\_\_\_\_

- 
16. Read through the opening paragraphs (1-12) of the parent involvement study (Deslandes & Bertrand, 2005). Of the major components that are typically included in a good "statement of the problem" section, which one is missing?

\_\_\_\_\_

- 
17. For each of the following statements, indicate whether it is a characteristic more applicable to quantitative or qualitative research problem or both. Place an "X" in the appropriate column.

	QUANTITATIVE	QUALITATIVE
A study in which the author seeks to:		
a. measure variables	_____	_____
b. study a process	_____	_____
c. generate theories	_____	_____
d. study a few sites	_____	_____
e. explain concepts	_____	_____

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